

As we've mentioned earlier, Superfund distinguishes between short-term and long-term responses to threats posed by hazardous substances. Our short-term responses, also called removal actions, address immediate threats to public health and the environment. Region III's Emergency Response and Removal Program has compiled an impressive record of accomplishment in protecting citizens, businesses and the environment in Pennsylvania over the past several decades, quickly investigating and aggressively addressing chemical releases, explosions, extreme soil and water contamination, and oil spills through the Oil Program.

Region III's emergency responders were some of the first to the scene of the highly-publicized oil spill in the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Southwest Philadelphia early this year. Working closely with Fish and Wildlife Services, the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) and Sunoco, Inc., EPA oversaw the recovery of close to 175,000 gallons of crude oil that leaked from one of Sun's underground pipelines. EPA Region III ordered Sun to complete the massive oil recovery effort; restore the valuable tidal wetland; monitor the wetlands and wildlife, surrounding water and shores; and restore the area as close to its pre-leak condition as possible. EPA also worked with OPS to establish safeguards that Sun must meet before putting the pipeline back into service.

EPA is justifiably proud of our support in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMAs) efforts during the severe flooding and devastation caused by Hurricane Floyd last year. EPA canvassed waterways for 'orphan' drums and tanks throughout Bucks, Delaware and Montgomery counties. Working in unison with federal, state and local responders, EPA emergency responders helped citizens ensure their flooded homes were safe from hazardous substance leaks and/or vapors.

The Franklin Smelting Site in Philadelphia once had a truly unpleasant distinction: it had highest lead emission levels in the nation, with leaden dust clouds blowing from the site on windy days. Region III's Superfund re-



John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, SW Philadelphia: EPA oversaw recovery of 175,000 gallons of oil that leaked from this underground pipeline.



John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge: turtle affected by oil spill.

EPA Region III has removed  
**7,416,100**  
 gallons of hazardous liquids and  
**406,754**  
 cubic yards of contaminated soil  
 and solid waste  
 in Pennsylvania since 1986.

(note: these amounts are for Superfund-lead removals that have been completed. PRPs and federal facilities do not report amounts of waste removed)



John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge: oil spill recovery efforts.



John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge: oil collects at wetland edge.

removal team was called upon to perform a fast-track and aggressive cleanup, significantly reducing the risk to nearby neighborhoods by shipping over 13,500 tons of contaminated soil and demolishing structurally unsound and contaminated buildings and equipment. By using our removal authority, EPA Mid-Atlantic has succeeded in not only protecting public health and the environment, but dramatically increasing the redevelopment potential of this centrally-located property.

The removal team also assesses sites suspected of exposing hazardous substances to humans, animals and the environment. For instance, Region III emergency response teams recently sampled 17 blocks of vacant lots in the Logan section of Northeast Philadelphia upon citizen and elected officials' requests, and found six pockets with elevated lead levels in the soil. After placing barriers around those specific areas, EPA is working with the City to determine the best solution to removing any potential risk to human health.

After conducting extensive sampling at the Lower Darby Creek Area, Region III determined that listing this site to the NPL was the next crucial step to cleanup. Contamination sources are varied and widespread, including a tank farm, a former sewage treatment plant, and a former incinerator. Listing this site on the NPL will ensure that the entire area receives the thorough investigation and cleanup it requires.

We're also focused on the safe handling of chemicals. This topic has generated a great deal of national attention following the infamous 1984 Bhopal chemical disaster, and more recently, the deliberate chemical release in a Tokyo subway. Region III's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (CEPP) Program has responded to these growing issues and concerns, providing leadership, building partnerships and offering technical assistance to:

- Prevent and prepare for chemical emergencies;
- Respond to environmental crises;
- Inform the public about chemical hazards in their community, and
- Share lessons learned about chemical accidents.

EPA prepares for contingencies such as biological and chemical warfare incidents, local preparedness issues, and first responder safety. The Mid-Atlantic Region also offers hazard-

ous materials response training at no charge to about 1,000 firefighters, paramedics, hospital and emergency workers, military and police officers each year.

Region III's preparedness team also plays an integral role in vital security issues at national events. When the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit in Washington, D.C. last year, intense preparation was required for the largest gathering of world leaders ever to the nation's capital. In order to shorten potential response times for any accidental or deliberate release hazardous substance release, Region III's was part of the multi-agency task force whose 'behind-the-scenes' efforts resulted not only in a successful summit, but also a new operations supplement to the nation's Federal Response Plan.

When Philadelphia hosts this year's Republican National Convention July 31 through August 4, Region III employees will work closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and FEMA to ensure shortened response times for any potential hazardous substance release, accidental or intentional, at this massive gathering of people.

Experience has shown that emergency preparedness improves when local stakeholders share information and participate in environmental decision-making. To that end, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), coupled with the Clean Air Act (CAA), enable citizens to become knowledgeable about facilities that report hazardous chemicals that they store or handle, by providing public access to the reports.

Last year, companies that store or handle hazardous wastes were required to submit these reports, called Risk Management Plans (RMPs) to EPA to inform the public what they are doing to prevent accidents and how they plan to operate safely and manage their chemicals responsibly. Summaries of these plans are now available to the public to help us better understand the chemical risks in our communities.



Franklin Smelting Site, Philadelphia: once had nation's highest lead emission levels.



Franklin Smelting Site: EPA removed over 13,500 tons contaminated soil.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE & REMOVAL HIGHLIGHTS



Franklin Slag Pile (MDC): Adjacent to Franklin Smelting, EPA is also addressing this environmental threat through its removal program.



Franklin Smelting Site: Redevelopment potential is dramatically increased.